

## REMARKS

The claims in the case are claims 1-8. The claims were amended in the preliminary examination. The claims have been amended further to eliminate multiple dependency and to put them in better form for U.S. filing.

No new matter is included.

Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KEIL & WEINKAUF

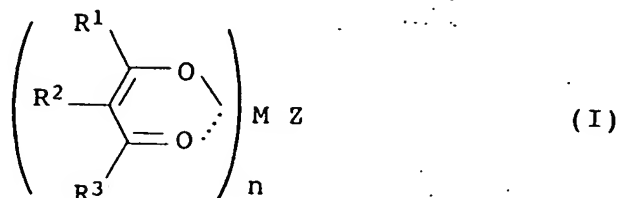


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1. (original) A process for preparing polyoxymethylene by contacting a formaldehyde source with a catalyst of the formula I



where

M is TiO, ZrO, HfO, VO, CrO<sub>2</sub>, MoO<sub>2</sub>, WO<sub>2</sub>, MnO<sub>2</sub>, ReO<sub>2</sub>, Fe, Ru, Co, Rh, Ir, Ni, Pd, Pt, Cu, Zn, Cd, Hg, Sn, SnO or PbO;

R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are each independently a radical which is selected from H, alkyl, aryl and aralkyl, and the radical may be partly or fully halogenated;

Z is an anion; and

n is 1 or 2.

2. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 where

M is MoO<sub>2</sub> or WO<sub>2</sub>.

3. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ where

$R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each independently H,  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl which may be partly or fully halogenated, phenyl, benzyl or naphthyl.

4. (original) A process as claimed in claim 3 where  $R^1$  and  $R^3$  are each independently methyl, tert-butyl, trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, heptafluoropropyl, phenyl or naphthyl.

5. (original) A process as claimed in claim 4 where  $R^2$  is H or methyl.

6. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ where

Z is a halide, sulfonate of the formula  $OSO_2R$ , where R is alkyl, partly or fully halogenated alkyl or aryl, complexed borate, complexed phosphate, complexed arsenate or complexed antimonate.

7. (original) A process as claimed in claim 6 where

Z is  $OSO_2CF_3$  or chloride.

8. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ where the formaldehyde source is

CLAIMS 53406

formaldehyde, trioxane or paraformaldehyde.